

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Side by Side

Week 5: Keeping Community Together **Week of February 6, 2022**
Acts 6:1-7 **(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

Our study of the early church has revealed a community of amazing love and unity. This seemingly perfect church reveals an imperfection in Acts 6. Relational conflict threatens to destroy the church's unity. We all deal with relational tensions and Acts 6 reveals a blueprint for conflict resolution.

Kicking it off:

Rams or Bengals? Who are you rooting for in the Super Bowl? And why?

Discussion:

1. Reread Acts 6:1 *In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.*

Why does conflict frequently develop between people who are different?

2. Why are many of us conflict avoiders?
3. Reread Acts 6:2 *So the Twelve gathered all the disciples.*

Why did the apostles gather the whole group for a discussion of the problem instead of just announcing a solution?

4. Reread what the apostles said in Acts 6:2 *"It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word in order to wait on tables. Choose seven men who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them."*

What is wise about the proposed solution?

5. Reread Acts 6:5-7 *They chose Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread and the number of disciples increased rapidly.*

They successfully resolved the conflict that threatened the church. Why is conflict resolution in the church of profound significance? What is at risk?

6. Do you know anyone who is gifted at conflict resolution? If so, describe them?

Wrapping It Up:

In Matthew 5:9, Jesus declared, *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."* Pray that the Lord would give you the courage and wisdom necessary to become a "peacemaker."